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## **Chairman King responds to arrest of DHS employee: Committee on Homeland Security to investigate DHS hiring, security clearance policies**

**Washington, D.C. (Wednesday, April 5, 2006)**—Today, House Homeland Security Chairman Peter T. King (R-NY) announced the Committee will investigate the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) hiring and security clearance policies. King named Mike Rogers (R-AL), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight, to lead the investigation.

"The arrest of DHS Deputy Press Secretary Brian J. Doyle raises serious concerns about the Department's hiring policies and, more important, its security clearance practices," King said. "I am concerned that DHS' security clearance procedures and controls on misuse of electronic equipment do not meet the standards of other national security agencies. To address these concerns, the Committee on Homeland Security will conduct an aggressive investigation of DHS' hiring and security clearance practices in the coming weeks to make certain lax personnel policies are not placing our nation's security at risk."

King announced that the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight had already scheduled a hearing on May 18<sup>th</sup> to examine DHS hiring practices and other personnel issues, including security clearances. King said the subcommittee will now examine Mr. Doyle's case in particular.

"Mr. Doyle allegedly provided potentially sensitive information over the internet to a complete stranger," King said. "What if the person on the other end had been a member of al-Qa'ida or a similar terrorist organization and used this information to blackmail Mr. Doyle?"

"Leaks of this nature are unacceptable, and we must make certain DHS has the proper controls in place to prevent something like this from ever happening again," King concluded. "The Committee is going to take the necessary steps to ensure that they do."

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